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(72) Inventor: Ebrahim, Zahir
Mountain View, California 94043 (US)

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(74) Representative: Turner, James Arthur et al
D. Young & Co.,
21 New Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1DA (GB)

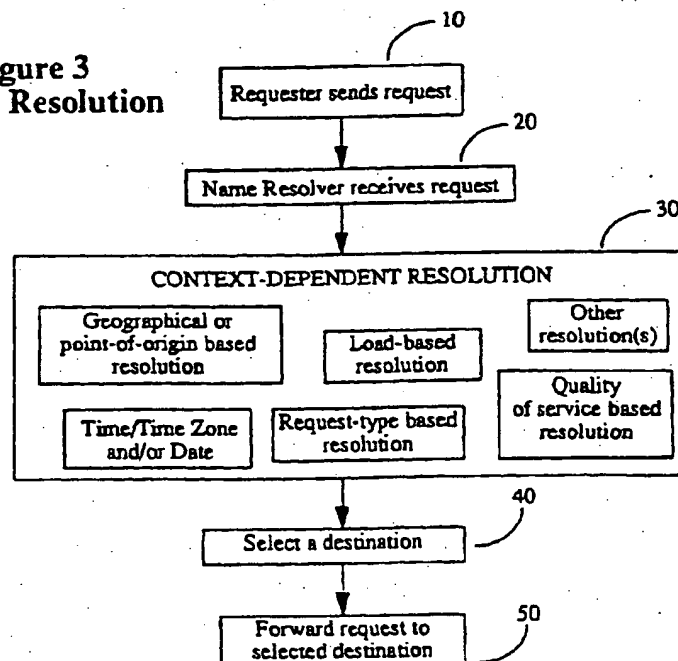
(71) Applicant: SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC.
Mountain View, California 94043-1100 (US)

(54) System for context-dependent name resolution

(57) A context-dependent, multiply binding name resolution system. A name resolver is provided, connected to either a requester's system or a receiver's system, or both. Requests to a given service or domain name are resolved to the appropriate IP address. The intended recipient of the request is resolved based upon a combination of one or more predetermined criteria, including: information about the sender (e.g. geographical

location, specific requester identity, etc.); information about the intended recipient (e.g. load balance at the receiver, type of service, etc.); information contained within the request itself (e.g. type of service requested); or other information (time of day, date, random selection of recipient, e.g.). The system is implemented in hardware and/or software, and the resolution criteria can be made interdependent or independent.

Figure 3
Service Resolution



EP 0 817 444 A3

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EP 0 817 444 A3

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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